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KT photo | **Tim Bath**

# House of Burgess: DNC hack fallout continues

## Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Shultz resigns

**By Rob Burgess**
**Tribune columnist**

If you want something to remain a secret, never write it down. But, if you want the whole world to know something, send it in an email in care of the Democratic National Committee.

As I wrote in my Sept. 14, 2015, column, “Democrats stifle their own debates,” it has been clear to anyone paying attention that the DNC and its Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz have been not-so-secretly favoring

Clinton’s candidacy from the beginning. Besides being one of Clinton’s national campaign co-chairs during her 2008 run, Wasserman Schultz scheduled only a few primary debates during the most inconvenient times.

And, as I wrote in my June 22 column, “Hack confirms DNC bias,” the DNC announced it was victim of a long-running, widespread data breach by hackers apparently working within the Russian government. A hacker calling him or herself “Guccifer 2.0” created a WordPress blog and posted several sensitive internal DNC documents, promising to release the rest to WikiLeaks.

July 22, WikiLeaks made good on that promise, releasing a searchable database of almost 20,000 DNC emails lifted in the hack. The corruption revealed within the party was even deeper than previously thought. In one email sent May 5 to Luis Miranda, DNC communications director, DNC CEO Amy Dacey and Mark Paustenbach, deputy DNC communications director, DNC CFO Brad Marshall made it clear the party was scheming on using Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' faith, or lack thereof, against him.

“It might [make] no difference, but for [Kentucky] and [West Virginia] can we get someone to ask his belief?” wrote Marshall. “Does he believe in a God? He had skated on saying he has a Jewish heritage. I think I read he is an atheist. This could make several points difference with my peeps. My Southern Baptist peeps would draw a big difference between a Jew and an atheist.”

This could not have come at a more inconvenient time for the Democrats, who were set to open their convention July 25 at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia. The party had been seeking unity. July 24, Wasserman Schultz announced she would resign her position at the DNC as a result of the hack's revelations. As Clinton's statement released the same day made clear, though, there was a seat in Clinton's campaign all warmed up for her.

“There’s simply no one better at taking the fight to the Republicans than Debbie – which is why I am glad that she has agreed to serve as honorary chair of my campaign’s 50-state program to gain ground and elect Democrats in every part of the country, and will continue to serve as a surrogate for my campaign nationally, in Florida, and in other key states,” it read.

This is far from over. Julian Assange, WikiLeaks founder, has made it clear there is more in store for the Clinton campaign and the Democratic Party.

"We have more material related to the Hillary Clinton campaign," Assange told CNN's Anderson Cooper on "Anderson 360" Friday.

And, in the meantime, the Russians have moved on from the DNC to the Clinton campaign itself.

“Computer systems used by Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign were hacked in an attack that appears to have come from Russia’s intelligence

services, a federal law enforcement official said on Friday," reported The New York Times' Eric Lichtblau.

Nick Merrill, Hillary for America spokesman, maintained this intrusion had not infiltrated their most secretive communications.

"An analytics data program maintained by the DNC, and used by our campaign and a number of other entities, was accessed as part of the DNC hack," stated Merrill. "Our campaign computer system has been under review by outside cyber security experts. To date, they have found no evidence that our internal systems have been compromised."

Perhaps it's time for the DNC and Clinton's team to resort to more primitive forms of communication. This whole technology thing just doesn't seem to be their bag.

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